

» Itinerary subject to change while touring «
for the best interest of the group

11/04 DAY 1 | Departure from North America

Today we embark on our Journey to Jordan & the Holy Land. Prepare yourself for a life-changing experience. Get some rest on the flight...tomorrow you will be walking the steps of the Bible.

11/05 Day 2 | Arrive Amman, Dead Sea

We arrive in Amman, and enter the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. We meet our guide at the airport and will transfer west to the Dead Sea for our first overnight. Most overseas flights from North America arrive in Amman late in the evening, so everyone should be ready for a good night's sleep before we begin our travels the next morning.

11/06 Day 3 | Jerash, Mt. Nebo

Following breakfast, we will have a meet & greet session to get to know our new traveling companions, familiarize ourselves with the etiquette of group travel, and prepare our hearts for what God has in store for us over the next 12 days. We will then board our tour bus and travel northward to Jerash, one of the best preserved and most complete provincial Roman cities. Jerash, Gerasa of Roman Times, was one of the cities of the Decapolis, a confederation of 10 Graeco-Roman cities dating from the 1st century BC situated in Jordan, Syria and Israel. Following lunch we travel south along the Kings Highway arriving atop Mt. Nebo, believed to be the site of the tomb of Moses, and commanding a spectacular view across the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. Study the panorama as we read the scripture of God showing Moses the "Promised Land" before He brought him home to heaven. We then return to our hotel along the shores of the Dead Sea for dinner and overnight.

11/07 Day 4 | Petra

We start our day by driving south to the amazing mountain fortress of Petra, known to be inhabited by the Edomites - the descendants of Esau. Begin the tour with a walk through the “Siq,” an immense crack in the Nabatean sandstone, to the city of Petra carved out of the rose red rock. The Treasury, El Khazneh, is one of the most elegant remains of antiquity. Beyond El Khazneh we are surrounded on both sides by hundreds of Petra’s carved and built structures. After our guided tour, you will have the remainder of the afternoon free to explore this UNESCO heritage site at your own pace or exit the site and check in to our hotel which is adjacent to the entrance gates.

11/08 Day 5 | Madaba, Israel, Jericho, Dead Sea

We travel north this morning toward the Allenby Bridge. On the way, we will visit the town of Madaba, the biblical Medeba. Madaba is best known for its Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics and at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George we will see the earliest map of the Holy Land. If possible, we will also meet some Christian believers living as refugees in Jordan and hear their stories and minister to them. Before crossing into Israel, we will stop at Bethany Beyond the Jordan, the place where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and where the children of Israel, led by Joshua, entered the Promised land. After crossing the Allenby Bridge, we come to Jericho, one of the oldest cities in the world. We will visit the ancient Tel before turning south along the Dead Sea, arriving at our hotel in time for dinner followed by a brief time to worship together and share about our experiences in Jordan.

11/09 Day 6 | Masada & Ein Gedi

This morning we start with a cable car ride to the mountain top fortress of Masada. Here our guide will treat us to the history of the famous zealot stand. Next we visit Ein Gedi, “Spring of the Goat,” an oasis on the western shore of the Dead Sea. Because of its warm climate and abundant supply of water, the site developed a reputation for its fragrant plants and date palm groves. This is where King David

hid from Saul, and where God defeated the enemies of the Israelites by praise and worship led by King Jehoshaphat. We return to our hotel where we have the remainder of the day free to enjoy the special spa and a relaxing float in the Dead Sea before dinner.

11/10 Day 7 | Qumran, Beit Shean

Our day begins with a visit to the Qumran Caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Following the fertile Jordan Valley northward, our guide will point out the agricultural restoration of the “Land of Milk and Honey” and Israel’s intricate irrigation development. Next we visit Beit-Shean/Scythopolis, the most magnificent archeological site in Israel, located at the strategic juncture of the Jezreel and Jordan valleys. Like Jericho, it has been almost continuously occupied throughout history. After defeating Saul and his sons on Mt. Gilboa, the Philistines hung their bodies on the walls of Beit-Shean. During the time of Jesus, Scythopolis was one of the chief cities of the Decapolis - a league of ten cities sharing Greek culture and government. Late afternoon we arrive at our hotel on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where we will be staying for the next four nights.

11/11 Day 8 | Magdala, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee

We begin this Lord’s Day by visiting one of the newest archeological digs in Israel – Magdala, the home of Mary Magdalene. This site hosts the oldest synagogue ruins, dating back to Jesus’ time. We will also have the opportunity for a worship service in the beautiful Chapel overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Following lunch, we will visit Capernaum where Peter lived. Then we travel to the probable sites of the multiplication of loaves and fishes in Bethsaida and the Mount of the Beatitudes. Later in the afternoon we get to enjoy a relaxing cruise on the Sea of Galilee. A brief scripture reading and devotional on board brings to life the experiences of Jesus and the fishermen disciples, concluding a wonderful Lord’s Day.

11/12 Day 9 | Dan, Caesarea Philippi, Golan Heights

Following breakfast, our morning travels take us to two valuable northern sites where we spend the majority of our day. Dan is the northernmost city of ancient Israel. Abraham traveled there all the way from Hebron in the south to rescue his nephew Lot from Kedorlaomer. However, Dan is where the children of Israel fell into the depths of pagan worship. Not being satisfied with its inheritance near Judah, the tribe of Dan settled here and set up idolatrous worship that plagued Israel throughout its history. This was especially so in the time of Jeroboam, son of Solomon and first king of the divided Northern Kingdom, who set up golden calves in Dan and Bethel to keep people from going to Jerusalem to worship. Next we visit Caesarea Philippi, site of Peter's Confession. "Baniyas" is the original name of this site near Mt. Hermon in the North, famous as the place where Peter first confessed that Jesus is the Messiah. We return south to the Galilee via the Golan Heights, viewing the bombed out buildings and forts from the 6 Day War in 1967.

11/13 Day 10 | Western Galilee, Nazareth, Jordan River Baptism

Early this morning we climb Mt. Arbel for a spectacular view of the Sea of Galilee allowing for an excellent time of teaching on the region of Jesus' ministry. We drive through the area of Cana and Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus, where we visit the Nazareth Village - a wonderful recreation of Biblical times with costumed guides. Returning towards the Galilee we visit the ancient city of Sepphoris also known as the birth place of the Virgin Mary. Next we will visit Hippos, located southeast on a hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee. In the New Testament, when Jesus mentions a "city set upon a hill" that "cannot be hidden", he may have been referring to Hippos. Heading back to our hotel, we make one last stop for the day at the Yardenit baptismal site. This will be a wonderful opportunity for those who wish to publicly display their faith to be baptized in the Jordan River.

11/14 Day 11 | Megiddo, Mt Carmel, Caesarea

After breakfast, we depart the Galilee heading west towards the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Enroute we have some important stops. We travel through the Jezreel Valley to Megiddo, the Armageddon Battlefield, where archaeologists have unearthed 20 levels of civilization. We then journey on to Mt. Carmel, where Elijah challenged King Ahab and the prophets of Baal. Our final stop is Caesarea by the sea, where Gentiles first heard the Good News from Peter and were baptized. We'll see the Roman Amphitheatre, hippodrome, aqueduct, and a film on the history and remains of this famous port city. We make the final push this afternoon south to "The Golden City", Jerusalem, and check into our hotel which will be our overnight lodging for the next four nights.

11/15 Day 12 | Temple Mount, Wailing Wall, Rabbinical Tunnels, Dead Sea Scrolls, Holocaust Museum, King David Dinner

Conditions permitting, we will start our day early with a visit to the Temple Mount with commentary on the Temple Periods and the variety of belief systems past and present that make this area so valuable. We will then visit the Wailing Wall followed by the fascinating Rabbinical Tunnels which lead us through the Second Temple era. The tunnel and exhibit give a clear understanding of the amazing construction of the Temple Mount, giant stones, water supply and Roman street where our Lord was led to judgment. From here we will see the Pool of Bethesda, Stephen's Gate and St. Ann's Church. Following lunch, our afternoon will include a visit to the Israeli Museum. We will walk through collections of centuries old Israeli artifacts including the Dead Sea Scrolls and tour an accurately detailed model of Biblical Jerusalem which will help us visualize what Jesus experienced during the passion week. If time permits, we will conclude our day with a visit to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum, for a sobering reminder of what the Jews have suffered as a people. After returning to our hotel to freshen up, we will make our way to the King David, revered world-wide as one of the most famous hotels in the region, for a special dinner out.

11/16 Day 13 | City of David, Southern Steps, Upper Room

This morning we begin the day with a visit to the Old City of David outside the current city walls. For those with a sense of adventure, there will be an opportunity to walk the 350 yard underground Hezekiah tunnel to the pool of Siloam. We will then visit the Southern Wall Excavations. This southern side of The Temple was the main entrance for the common folk. Parts of the giant stairs which led to the Temple Mount from the courtyard have been unearthed along with the purification pools. From here Jesus entered the Temple Mount and drove out the vendors and money exchangers who were exploiting the people. It is also likely that this is the place where Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost and thousands were saved and baptized. Following lunch we will walk through the Old City to Zion Gate and visit the “Upper Room” where Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples. The remainder of the afternoon will be free for exploring the Old City on your own or returning to our hotel for quiet reflection.

11/17 Day 14 | Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Garden Tomb

Today we will have the opportunity to literally walk the path Jesus walked on the day of His crucifixion. We begin at the Mount of Olives where we will have a panoramic view of the city, Mount Moriah and the Dome of the Rock. From there we go to the Garden of Gethsemane to walk between the ancient olive trees, read the scriptures of Jesus’ prayer, and take time for personal reflection. Next we visit the House of Caiaphas where Jesus was taken following his arrest in the garden, and see a pit where he may have been held for the evening. We will then follow in His footsteps to the Judgement Hall of Pilate, hear of those who conspired against Him and be reminded of His brutal beating and humiliation. Next is the Via Dolorosa, where we will recall His way of suffering. Our guide will explain the differing opinions on the route that Christ was led. Finally we continue on to Golgotha (place of the skull) and then to the Garden Tomb where we celebrate the resurrection with communion and a time of praise. After returning to our hotel to freshen up, we will enjoy one final meal together at the American Colony, a

historic hotel that has been the preferred overnight accommodation for many journalists and politicians over the years.

11/18

Day 15 | Depart for Home

Transfer to the Tel Aviv airport for your flight home. For those with flights later in the day, you will have time to explore the Old City on your own and buy those last minute souvenirs!

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1-800-654-2836

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